Title: Need to provide railway crossings on Luni − Barmer − Munabao railway track in Barmer district, Rajasthan-Laid.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER) : It is submitted that Luni − Barmer − Munabao rail line is being converted from meter gauge to broad gauge for the last four years. This rail line was laid during the British rule when the desert area was very thinly populated.

With the passage of time, the population of the area has increased manifold and a number of development schemes have been launched for development of this region. With the increase in population and development of the region, there is a definite need to provide additional level crossings on this rail line to facilitate smooth flow of traffic. Instead of providing additional level crossings, due to paucity of funds, a large number of existing level crossings have been closed. This has created a lot of problem and inconvenience to the public of this Thar Desert Area.

In view of geographical and desert terrain, I shall request the Govt. to kindly modify the rule and have flexible approach to provide manned or unmanned level crossings on broad gauge under construction (Luni − Barmer − Munabao) 297 KM at all the existing places and those closed should be reopened to mitigate the problems of people around the rail line in drought prone Thar desert of Western Rajasthan.